

ARTICLES

OF

19

Visitation *and* Enquiry

Concerning Matters

ECCLESIASTICAL,

Exhibited to the

Minister, Church-Wardens and Side-
Men of every Parish.

WITHIN THE

Archdeaconry of Lincoln.

At the Visitation held by the Worshipful George Newell,
Esq; Vicar-General of the Rt. Rev. Father in God
Richard Lord Bishop of *Lincoln*, and Official of the
said Archdeaconry, during the Vacancy of the same.

Printed at *Stamford, Lincolnshire.*

ARTICLE
The Form of the O A T H to be Administred to
the Church-Wardens and Side-Men of every
Parish.

YOU shall Swear to make true
Presentment, according to the
Book of Articles given yon in Charge,
so far as you know, and by Law you
are bound, without Fear or Favour
of any Person.

So help you God.



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Articles of Visitation and Enquiry

WITHIN THE

Archdeaconry of Lincoln.

T I T. I.

Concerning Churches and Chapels, and the Furniture belonging to them.

1. **I**S your Parish Church or Chapel, with the Chancel and Steeple in good and sufficient Repair, both within and without? The Windows Glazed, the Floor evenly Paved, the Seats convenient for Kneeling and Sitting, and the whole Church clean and decent? Are any Seats or Pews lately built within your Parish Church? When where they so built, and by whom, and what Authority.

2. Hath any Part thereof been demolished or pulled down? And do you know, or have heard of any Persons, who hath imbezled or converted to his own Use, any of the Bells, Lead, Timber or Utensils thereunto belonging?

3. Have you in your Church or Chapel, a large Bible of the last Translation, two Books of Common-Prayer for your Minister and the Clerk, the Book of Homilies allowed by Authority, a Book of Articles, and of Constitutions and Canons Ecclesiastical, a Register Book in Parchment, for Christnings, Marriages, and Burials, and all well Bound, and a

Book for the Church-Wardens Accounts, and a Table of the Degrees wherein Marriages are prohibited?

4. Is there a decent Font of Stone, with a decent Cover to it, a decent Communion Table, covered with a decent Carpet of Silk, Cloth, or Stuff, in time of Divine Service; and another Covering of white Linnen, at time of Administring the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, with a fair Linnen-cloth to cover the Elements, a Patin for the Bread, and a Chalice for the Wine, with a Cover, and one or more Flagons decently preserved and kept for this Use only?

5. Is there a decent and convenient Seat or Pew for the Minister to read Divine Service in, a Pulpit with a decent Cloath or Cushion for the same, and a decent and comly Surplice for the use of the Minister in his publick Administrations, with an Hood provided at the Charge of the Parish?

6. Have you a Coffer or Chest with three Locks and Keys, and is your Register-Book in the same, according as the 70th Cannon directs?

7. Have you a Chest or strong Box for the Alms for the Poor, and a strong Chest with Locks and Keys for the safe keeping the Books and other Furniture above mention'd? And have you a Bier with an Hearse-cloth, for the decent Burial of the Dead?

T I T. II.

Concerning the Church-Yard, Houses, Glebes and Tythes.

1. **I**S your Church-Yard well and sufficiently fenced with Walls, Pales, or Rails? And is the same decently kept? Are the Trees therein preserved? Has any Part been seperated from it? Or any new Door or Passage into it;

2. Is the House of your Minister, with the Out-houses thereunto belonging, in good and sufficient Repair? Have any of them been defaced or pulled down without Licence?

3. Have

3. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-Lands and Tenements; as also a Note of the several Pensions Rate-Tythes and Portions of Tythes, and other yearly Profits belonging to your Church? And is a Copy thereof delivered into the Bishop's Registry? Have any Dues or Rights belonging to your Church been with-held from your Minister, as you know, or have heard?

T I T.

Concerning Ministers.

1. **D**OETH the Minister, in Reading the Morning and Evening Prayers, Administration of the Holy Sacraments, Celebration of Matrimony, Churching of Women, and Burial of the Dead, use the Form and Words prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer, with the Rites and Ceremonies appointed in that Book, so far as you know? And doth he usually wear the Surplice in such his Administrations.

2. Doth your Minister reside in his Parsonage or Vicarage-House? And doth he preach every Lord's Day, unless hindered by Sicknes, or reasonable Absence? How long in any one Year hath he been absent from his Cure?

3. Doth he frequently administer the Sacrament of the Lord's-Supper, and deny the Holy Communion to such as are open and notorious evil Livers, until they have openly declared that they have truly repented; as likewise to all such as live in Malice and Hatred, and refuse to be reconciled?

4. Doth he diligently instruct the Youth in the Church Catechism, and observe the several Festivals and Fasts of the Church, according to the Cannons of the Church and the Laws of the Land, and gave publick Notice of the same?

5. Doth he neglect or refuse to visit the Sick, or delay to Baptize Infants in danger of Death? Doth he publickly Baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers, and without the Sign

Sign of the Cross? Are there any Children past Infancy, or other Person grown up, which thro' the Minister's Default, remain unbaptized in your Parish.

6. Hath he married any Persons in private Houses? Or such as being under Age, have not the Consent of their Parents or Guardians? Or without the Publication of Banns, unless by Licence duly obtained? Or at any other Hours than between 8 and 12 in the Forenoon? Or at any Hour, Persons that are prohibited to marry, or such as neither of them dwell in your Parish?

7. Is your Minister of a godly, sober, and peaceable Conversation? Or is he a Frequenter of Taverns or Ale-houses? Or is his Carriage and Conversation any wise disorderly, or unbeseeming a Minister of *Jesus Christ*.

T I T. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

1. **A**RE there any Persons in the Parish who neglect all publick Worship of God, neither resorting to your Parish Church, nor to any Assembly, pretending to worship God elsewhere? Any who reproach the Religion professed and established in the Church of England, or endeavour to seduce others from it? Or any that endeavour to alienate the Hearts of the People from their Loyalty and Obedience to their King?

2. Are there any that do not behave themselves reverently, orderly, and decently in time of Divine Service and Sermon?

3. Are there any who profess to live in the Communion of the Church of England, who refuses to bring their Children to Church to be baptized, unless in case of extream Danger? Or any who neglect to come to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, being of Age fit to receive it? Or any who neglect to cause their Children and Servants to come to Church to be instructed in the Catechism, in order to their being confirmed and admitted to the Communion? And do such as receive the Holy Communion, signifie their Names and purpose to communicate, unto the Minister, at least the Day before the Celebration thereof?

4. Are there any in your Parish who live as Man and Wife, and are known and suspected not to married? Or any living as Man and Wife, who are within the Degrees prohibited?

5. Do any married Women in your Parish, after Delivery from the Danger of Child-Birth, refuse to make their publick Thanksgiving in the Church for so great a Mercy, or to pay their accustomed Offerings to the Minister?

6. Is there any Person in your Parish who lieth under a common Fame or Suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards, Swearers, or Blasphemers of God's Name? Or any that are noted to be filthy Talkers, Railers, Sowers of Sedition, Faction and Discord among their Neighbours?

7. Are there any that follow their ordinary Vocation or Labour on the Lord's-Day? Any that keep open their Shops, or vend any Wares, except in case of Necessity, or permit their Children or Servants so to do? Any Inn-keepers or Victuallers that suffer any Person to tiddle or game in their Houses on that Day? Or any who use unlawful Exercises or Pastimes on that Day?

8. Are there any in your Parish who refuse to pay their *Easter-Offerings*, and other Dues belonging to your Minister? Or any that neglect or refuse to pay their Proportion to the Rates set for Repairs of the Church or Chapel, or any thing thereunto belonging?

8. Do you know, or have heard of any last Wills and Testaments of Persons dead in your Parish that are not yet proved, or any Goods administered, without a due Grant from the Ordinary? Have any Legacies been left to Pious or Charitable Uses, and have been misapplied?

TIT. V.

Concerning Church-Wardens.

ARE the Church-Wardens of your Parish duly chosen; Have the former and latter Church-Wardens given up their Accounts to the Minister and Parishioners, and delivered up to their Successors what Money remains in their Hands, together with all things else belonging to the Church or Chapel, and entered the several Particulars in the Book of Accounts?

TIT. VI.

Concerning Parish-Clerks and Sextons.

1. **H**AVE you a Parish-Clerk chosen by your Minister, aged 21 Years at least? Is he of Ability to perform his Duty in Reading and Singing? And doth he duly attend the Minister in all Divine Services of the Church? Are there any that withhold his Wages from him.

2. Doth your Sexton keep the Church and Chancel clean and decent, and duly perform all the other Parts of his Office?

TIT. VII.

Concerning Schools and School-Masters.

DOTH any Man keep a Publick or Private School in the Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by his Ordinary? Is the School-Master a diligent and sober Man? Does he teach his Scholars the Church Catechism? Does he cause them to repair to the Church or Chapel on Sundays and other Days when there is Divine Service, and see that they there behave themselves quietly and reverently?

Doth any Person within your Parish practice Phytick, Surgery, or Midwifry, not being quality'd so to do?

If you know of any other Default or Crime of Ecclesiastical Cognizance, not express'd in these Articles, you are likewise to present the same, and herein to take the Assistance of your Minister.



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